

- (i) The Registration Committee (R.C.) constituted under the insecticides Act, 1968 prescribes dose and waiting period while approving the use of pesticides on various crops so as to ensure that pesticides residues do not exceed the tolerance limits prescribed under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954;
- (ii) The Food Health Authorities of States/UTs implementing the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules, 1955 have been advised from time to time to keep strict vigil on the level of pesticides residues in food commodities.
- (iii) Integrated Pest Management (IPM) has been adopted as cardinal principle and main plank of plant protection in the overall crop production programme. IPM is an eco-friendly approach which encompasses cultural, mechanical, biological and need based chemical control measures. In this approach, greater emphasis is laid on the use of bio-pesticides, pheromones, biological control agents and the pesticides of plant origin. There is significant reduction in the consumption of pesticides from 61,357 MT(technical grade) during 1994-95 to 46,195 MT (technical grade) during 1999-2000.

Diversification of Crop Support Price and Procurement

1401. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief-Ministers' Conference called in May this year took note of the fact that the system of support price and procurement had been confined to two crops only i.e. wheat and rice, and coarse-grain, pulses and edible oils had been neglected;

(b) if so, what strategy was evolved to diversify the support price and procurement mechanism to other crops; and

(c) the steps being taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) At Chief Ministers' Conference held on 21st May, 2001 some of the

State Governments mentioned the need for procurement of coarse cereals, pulses, etc. under price support scheme. However, at present a total of 25 major agricultural commodities are covered under the scheme of Minimum Support Price (MSP) and procurement mechanism already exists for all these commodities. In case of fall in prices of these commodities below the MSPs, the nodal agencies, designated for respective commodities, are required to intervene in the market and undertake procurement. As a result of this mechanism, large quantities of oilseeds, copra and coarse cereals in addition to wheat and rice, were procured during the years 2000-2001 pursuant to the decline in their prices. The procurement of wheat and rice by the public procurement agencies, namely Food Corporation of India (FCI) is, however, very large because procurement is undertaken not only for price stabilization reasons of these commodities, but also for maintaining buffer stock and for public distribution system (PDS). This is not the case with other commodities covered under the MSP scheme.

Earthquake relief to Gujarat

1402. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:

SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total financial assistance given to Gujarat by Government to meet the earthquake relief and rehabilitation work, till 30th June, 2001;

(b) what is the share of different Ministries and Departments of Government in providing financial assistance with reference to the above; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Gujarat is not availing the resources made available by Government to carry out the different tasks required by that State? THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Funding of expenditure from Central Government on natural calamities of severe nature like the Gujarat earthquake is mainly